



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 27:10:2010

Website: [www.victoriouschristianministry.org](http://www.victoriouschristianministry.org);

### Study 4: POWER AND POTENTIALS OF COMPASSIONATE CONCERN

Nehemiah 1:1-4,11; 2:1-3

The motivation to Nehemiah's prayerfulness was a deep-seated compassionate concern for people. His compassion and concern went beyond the levels of superficiality, diplomatic overtures and ritualistic traditions, to the very core of basic human needs. Compassionate concern, an attribute of God, has been instrumental to the rise of many to great leadership roles. Despite his high position in the King's court, Nehemiah was so concerned for the underprivileged and continued in prayer till he got involved in their deliverance.

#### 1. CONSTRAINED BY TRUE LOVE

Nehemiah 1:3,4,11; 2:1; Matthew 25:14-30; Hebrews 11:24-26; Philippians 3:4-11; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 18:1-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Galatians 6:9

Nehemiah lived in affluence in the king's court and occupied the enviable position of the king's cupbearer. (History claims that one of the king's cupbearers was a governor of one of the provinces). Despite his high position in the cadre of life, he was not merely courting the favour and company of prominent personalities but closely identified and associated with the despised and defeated people of God. He recognized the plan of God for Israel, and was prepared to risk his secular position for it despite the fact that it might contradict the plan of his earthly master. He used his position, power and privileges to advance God's purposes for his people irrespective of how others thought, or opposed it. This is a succinct reminder that the position, power, influence and talents God has given us are trusts for investment in the advancement of His kingdom. It is compassion that made Christ to leave the glories of heaven, came down to identify with and die for sinful people who did not even seek Him.

We often sing that prayer is the key. Yes, indeed, prayer is the key that opens all doors. However, some doors may have been so hardly locked that it will take sacrificial constrain of love to sustain continued prayer till such doors are opened. Jesus taught about persevering in prayers till the answer comes. Nehemiah kept on praying for four months before the first signs of answer began to appear! Nothing but compassion could have constrained him to tarry for so long in prayer with fasting for destitute and despised people in a busy palace that is normally filled with an atmosphere of joyous feasting. ***"Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."***

**Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern**

## 2. CONDUIT FOR TRIUMPHANT LIBERATION

Nehemiah. 1:1,2,4; 2:1,2; Proverbs 11:25; 24:11,12; 31:8,9; Luke 10:30-37; James 4:17; 1:27; 2:14-17; Deuteronomy 15:7-11; 1 John 3:17,18; John 13:34,35; Ezekiel 3:17-21

Nehemiah showed his concern by enquiring about the welfare of Jerusalem and of the Jews. His enquiry was not a formalistic greeting that expected no answer (let alone bad news!). He listened attentively to the answers and was moved by compassion to pray. This implies that he put himself in the shoes of these people (i.e. identified with their plight) in the light of God's plan and purpose. The prayer was not a professional diplomacy to make himself acceptable to the visiting Jews; neither was it a short-lived superficial ritual, but a continual outpouring of deep-seated burdens of the soul fueled by the compassionate concern for the predicament of the Jews. His concern persisted from Chisleu (the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Jewish calendar) when he first got the news, till beyond Nisan (the 1<sup>st</sup> month) of the following year when he first got the privilege to make a request to the king. **He did not use prayer as an escapist tool from personal involvement.** It is only deep love and concern that can move today's believer to rescue the perishing. And God expects nothing less from us! Moses, Paul, George Muller, William Wilberforce and Florence Nightingale were moved by such powerful force to achieve incredible lots for their generation; and their lives still stand out as shining light for all to emulate. A popular song challenges us to: ***"Show a little kindness, shine your light for everyone to see; If you show a little kindness, then you no more look with blindness, like a narrow-minded man; in a narrow-minded world"***. Heart-felt compassionate concern is the conduit to the power that can make the believer Christ-like.